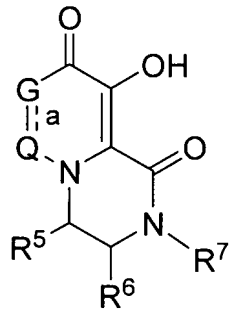
IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims which follows replaces any and all prior versions and/or listings of the claims in the application.

1. (original) A compound of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

wherein:

G is C-R^1, CH-R^1, N, or N-R^2;

Q is C-R^3, C-R^4, CH-R^3 or CH-R^4, with the proviso that (i) when G is C-R^1, then Q is C-R^3, (ii) when G is CH-R^1, then Q is CH-R^3, (iii) when G is N, then Q is C-R^4, and (iv) when G is N-R^2, then Q is CH-R^4;

bond "a" is a single bond or a double bond between G and Q, with the proviso that (i) when G is N or C-R^1, bond "a" is a double bond, and (ii) when G is CH-R^1 or N-R^2, bond "a" is a single bond;

R^1 is:

(1) H,
(2) halogen,
(3) C_{1-6} alkyl,
(4) C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with:
  (a) -N(R^a)R^b,
  (b) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
  (c) -N(R^a)-SO_2R^b,
  (d) -N(R^a)-C_{1-6} alkylene-O-C_{1-6} alkyl,
  (e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,

(f) -OH,
(g) -HetD, or
(h) -N(R^a)-C_{1-6} alkylene-HetA,

(5) HetA,
(6) C(=O)-R^a,
(7) C(=O)-aryl, or
(8) C(=O)-HetA;

R^2 is H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^3 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-6} alkyl,
(3) C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with:
(a) -N(R^a)R^b,
(b) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
(c) -N(R^a)-SO_2R^b,
(d) -N(R^a)-C_{1-6} alkylene-O-C_{1-6} alkyl,
(e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
(f) -HetD,
(g) -N(R^a)-C_{1-6} alkylene-HetA, or
(4) C(=O)-C_{1-6} alkyl,
(5) CO_2H,
(6) C(=O)-O-C_{1-6} alkyl,
(7) C(=O)N(R^a)R^b, or
(8) C(=O)-HetF;

R^4 is:

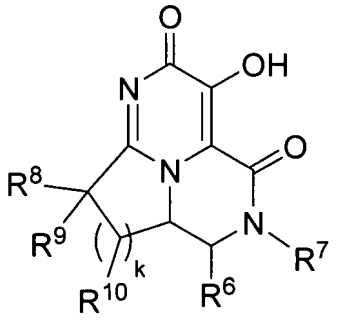
(1) H,
(2) C_{1-6} alkyl, or
(3) C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with:
(a) -N(R^a)R^b,
(b) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
(c) -N(R^a)-SO_2R^b,
(d) -N(R^a)-C_{1-6} alkylene-O-C_{1-6} alkyl,
(e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,

(f) -HetD, or
(g) -N(R^a)-C_{1-6} alkylene-HetA;

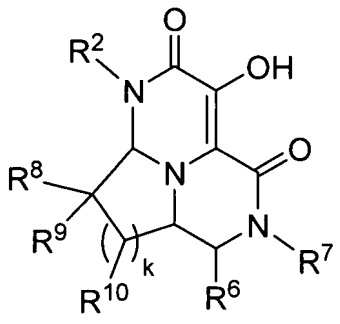
R^5 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-6} alkyl, or
(3) C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with:
(a) $-CO_2H$,
(b) -C(=O)-O-C_{1-6} alkyl,
(c) -C(=O)-C_{1-6} alkyl,
(d) -N(R^a)R^b,
(e) -C(=O)N(R^a)R^b,
(f) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
(g) -N(R^a)-SO_2R^b,
(h) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
(i) -HetF,
(j) -C(=O)-HetF, or
(k) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

or alternatively R^4 and R^5 together with the carbon atoms to which each is attached and the fused ring N atom therebetween form a ring such that the compound of Formula I is a compound of Formula Ia or Ib:



(Ia)



(Ib)

wherein k is an integer equal to 1 or 2;

R^6 is H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^7 is C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with T, wherein T is:

(A) aryl or aryl fused to a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the aryl or fused aryl is optionally substituted with from 1 to 5 substituents each of which is independently:

(1) -C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with -OH, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -CN, -NO_2, -$N(R^a)R^b$, -$C(=O)N(R^a)R^b$, -$C(=O)R^a$, -CO_2R^a, -$S(O)_nR^a$ where n is an integer equal to zero or 1 or 2, -$SO_2N(R^a)R^b$, -$N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$, -$N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, -$N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, -$N(R^a)SO_2N(R^a)R^b$, -$OC(=O)N(R^a)R^b$, or -$N(R^a)C(=O)N(R^a)R^b$,

(2) -O-C_{1-6} alkyl,

(3) -C_{1-6} haloalkyl,

(4) -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl,

(5) -OH,

(6) halo,

(7) -CN,

(8) -NO_2,

(9) -$N(R^a)R^b$,

(10) -$C(=O)N(R^a)R^b$,

(11) -$C(=O)R^a$,

(12) -CO_2R^a,

(13) -SR^a,

(14) -$S(=O)R^a$,

(15) -SO_2R^a,

(16) -$SO_2N(R^a)R^b$,

(17) -$N(R^a)SO_2R^b$,

(18) -$N(R^a)SO_2N(R^a)R^b$,

(19) -$N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$,

(20) -$N(R^a)C(=O)$-$C(=O)N(R^a)R^b$,

(21) -$N(R^a)CO_2R^b$,

(22) phenyl,

(23) benzyl,

(24) -HetB,

(25) -C(=O)-HetB, or

(26) -HetC, or

(B) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S; wherein the heteroaromatic ring is

(i) optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents each of which is independently halogen, -C_{1-6} alkyl, -C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, or hydroxy; and

(ii) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently aryl or -C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with aryl;

R^8 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-6} alkyl,
(3) $N(R^a)R^b$,
(4) $N(R^a)$-CO_2R^b,
(5) $N(R^a)$-SO_2R^b,
(6) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-R^b,
(7) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(8) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(9) HetF,
(10) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-HetF, or
(11) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

R^9 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl, or C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with U, wherein U independently has the same definition as T;

each R^{10} is independently H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

each HetA is independently:

(A) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S; wherein the heteroaromatic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom in the ring, and wherein the heteroaromatic ring is:

(i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-4} alkyl; and

(ii) optionally substituted with aryl or -C_{1-4} alkylene-aryl; or

(B) a 9- or 10-membered aromatic heterobicyclic fused ring system containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S; wherein the fused ring system consists of a 6-membered ring fused with either a 5-membered ring or another 6-membered ring, either ring of which is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon

atom; wherein the ring of the fused ring system attached to the rest of the compound via the carbon atom contains at least one of the heteroatoms; and wherein the fused ring system is:

(i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-4} alkyl; and

(ii) optionally substituted with aryl or -C_{1-4} alkylene-aryl;

each HetB is independently a C_{4-7} azacycloalkyl or a C_{3-6} diazacycloalkyl, either of which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents each of which is oxo or C_{1-6} alkyl;

each HetC is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents each of which is independently halo, -C_{1-6} alkyl, -C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, or hydroxy; or

each HetD is independently a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing at least one carbon atom and a total of from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 4 N atoms, from 0 to 2 O atoms, and from 0 to 2 S atoms, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO_2, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally fused with a benzene ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is:

(i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-4} alkyl, -C_{1-4} alkylene-$N(R^a)R^b$, or -$C(=O)OR^a$; and

(ii) optionally substituted with aryl, -C_{1-4} alkylene-aryl, HetE, or -C_{1-4} alkylene-HetE; wherein HetE is (i) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S or (ii) a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing at least one carbon atom and from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S;

each HetF is independently a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 or 2 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO_2, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-6} alkyl;

each aryl is independently phenyl or naphthyl;

each R^a is independently H or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

each R^b is independently H or C_{1-6} alkyl.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^3 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-6} alkyl,
(3) C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with:
  (a) $-N(R^a)R^b$,
  (b) $-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b$,
  (c) $-N(R^a)-SO_2R^b$,
  (d) $-N(R^a)-C_{1-6}$ alkylene-O-C_{1-6} alkyl,
  (e) $-N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b$,
  (f) -HetD, or
  (g) $-N(R^a)-C_{1-6}$ alkylene-HetA, or
(4) $C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

R^4 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-6} alkyl, or
(3) C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with:
  (a) $-N(R^a)R^b$,
  (b) $-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b$,
  (c) $-N(R^a)-SO_2R^b$,
  (d) $-N(R^a)-C_{1-6}$ alkylene-O-C_{1-6} alkyl,
  (e) $-N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b$,
  (f) -HetD, or
  (g) $-N(R^a)-C_{1-6}$ alkylene-HetA; and

R^5 and R^6 are each independently H or C_{1-6} alkyl.

3. (original) The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^1 is:

(1) H,
(2) halogen,
(3) C_{1-4} alkyl,
(4) C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with:
  (a) $-N(R^a)R^b$,
  (b) $-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b$,
  (c) $-N(R^a)-SO_2R^b$,
  (d) $-N(R^a)-C_{1-3}$ alkylene-O-C_{1-4} alkyl,
  (e) $-N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b$,
  (f) -OH,
  (g) -HetD, or
  (h) $-N(R^a)-C_{1-3}$ alkylene-HetA,
(5) HetA,
(6) $C(=O)-R^a$,
(7) C(=O)-aryl, or
(8) C(=O)-HetA;

R^2 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^3 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-4} alkyl,
(3) $C(=O)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(4) CO_2H,
(5) $C(=O)-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(6) $C(=O)N(R^a)R^b$, or
(7) C(=O)-HetF;

R^4 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-4} alkyl, or

(3) C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with:

(a) -N(R^a)R^b,

(b) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,

(c) -N(R^a)-SO_2R^b,

(d) -N(R^a)-C_{1-3} alkylene-O-C_{1-4} alkyl,

(e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,

(f) -HetD, or

(g) -N(R^a)-C_{1-3} alkylene-HetA;

R^5 is:

(1) H,

(2) C_{1-4} alkyl, or

(3) C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with:

(a) -CO_2H,

(b) -C(=O)-O-C_{1-4} alkyl,

(c) -N(R^a)R^b,

(d) -C(=O)N(R^a)R^b,

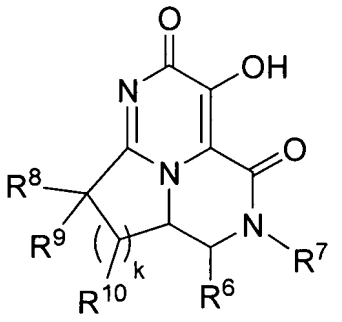
(e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,

(f) -HetF,

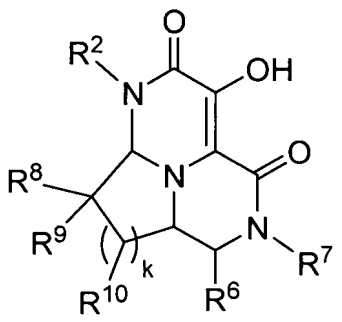
(g) -C(=O)-HetF, or

(h) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

or alternatively R^4 and R^5 together with the carbon atoms to which each is attached and the fused ring N atom therebetween form a ring such that the compound of Formula I is a compound of Formula Ia or Ib:



(Ia)



(Ib)

wherein k is an integer equal to 1 or 2;

R^6 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^7 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, or C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with T, wherein T is phenyl, naphthyl, quinolinyl, or isoquinolinyl, wherein the phenyl, naphthyl, quinolinyl, or isoquinolinyl is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halo, -C_{1-4} alkyl, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C_{1-4} fluoroalkyl, -SO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C_{1-4} alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$, or HetC;

R^8 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-4} alkyl,
(3) $N(R^a)R^b$,
(4) $N(R^a)$-CO_2R^b,
(5) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(6) HetF, or
(7) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

R^9 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, or C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with U, wherein U is phenyl, naphthyl, quinolinyl, or isoquinolinyl, wherein the phenyl, naphthyl, quinolinyl, or isoquinolinyl is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halo, -C_{1-4} alkyl, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C_{1-4} fluoroalkyl, -SO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C_{1-4} alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$, or HetC;

each R^{10} is independently H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

HetA is:

(A) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from zero to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom; wherein the heteroaromatic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom in the ring, and wherein the heteroaromatic ring is:

(i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-4} alkyl; and

(ii) optionally substituted with phenyl or -CH_2-phenyl; or

(B) a 9- or 10-membered aromatic heterobicyclic fused ring system containing a total of from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 4 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom; wherein the fused ring system consists of a 6-membered ring fused with either a 5-membered ring or another 6-membered ring, either ring of

which is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom; wherein the ring of the fused ring system attached to the rest of the compound via the carbon atom contains at least one of the heteroatoms; and wherein the fused ring system is:

(i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-4} alkyl; and

(ii) optionally substituted with phenyl or -CH_2-phenyl; and

each HetC is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing a total of 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 4 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom in the ring, and wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-4} alkyl;

HetD is a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO_2, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally fused with a benzene ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is:

(i) optionally substituted with -C_{1-4} alkyl, -$(CH_2)_{1-2}$-NH(-C_{1-4} alkyl), -$(CH_2)_{1-2}$-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$ or -C(=O)O-C_{1-4} alkyl; and

(ii) optionally substituted with phenyl, -CH_2-phenyl, HetE, or -$(CH_2)_{1-2}$-HetE; wherein HetE is (i) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from zero to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom or (ii) a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom;

each HetF is independently a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 or 2 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO_2, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-4} alkyl;

each R^a is independently H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and

R^b is H or C_{1-4} alkyl.

4. (original) The compound according to claim 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^1 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
(3) chloro,
(4) bromo,
(5) CH_2-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(6) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(7) CH_2-$N(R^a)$-$C(=O)$-R^b,
(8) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-$C(=O)$-R^b,
(9) CH_2-$N(R^a)$-SO_2R^b,
(10) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-SO_2R^b,
(11) CH_2-$N(R^a)$-C_{2-3} alkylene-O-C_{1-3} alkyl,
(12) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-C_{2-3} alkylene-O-C_{1-3} alkyl,
(13) CH_2-$N(R^a)$-$C(=O)$-$C(=O)$-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(14) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-$C(=O)$-$C(=O)$-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(15) CH_2OH,
(16) $CH(CH_3)OH$,
(17) CH_2-HetD,
(18) $CH(CH_3)$-HetD,
(19) CH_2-$N(R^a)$-CH_2-HetA,
(20) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-CH_2-HetA,
(21) HetA, or
(22) $C(=O)$-R^a; and

R^2 is H or C_{1-3} alkyl;

R^3 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
(3) $C(=O)$-C_{1-3} alkyl,

(4) CO_2H,
(5) $C(=O)$-O-C_{1-3} alkyl, or
(6) $C(=O)N(R^a)R^b$;

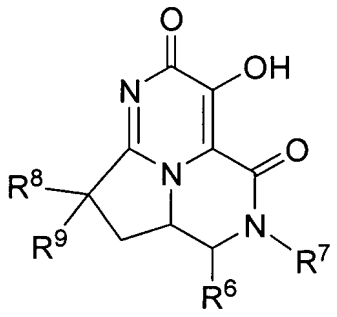
R^4 is:

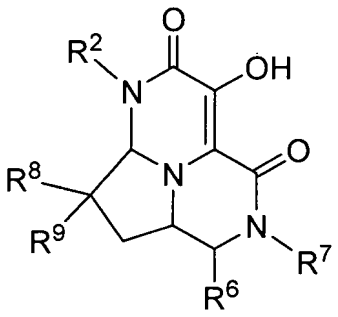
(1) H,
(2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
(3) CH_2-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(4) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(5) CH_2-$N(R^a)$-$C(=O)$-R^b,
(6) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-$C(=O)$-R^b,
(7) CH_2-HetD, or
(8) $CH(CH_3)$-HetD;

R^5 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
(3) CH_2CO_2H,
(4) $CH_2C(=O)$-O-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(5) $(CH_2)_{1-2}N(R^a)R^b$,
(6) $CH_2C(=O)N(R^a)R^b$,
(7) $(CH_2)_{1-2}N(R^a)$-$C(=O)$-$C(=O)$-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(8) $(CH_2)_{1-2}$-HetF,
(9) $CH_2C(=O)$-HetF, or
(10) $(CH_2)_{1-2}N(R^a)$-$C(=O)$-$C(=O)$-HetF;

or alternatively R^4 and R^5 together with the carbon atoms to which each is attached and the fused ring N atom therebetween form a ring such that the compound of Formula I is a compound of Formula Ia1 or Ib1:


(Ia1)


(Ib1)

R^6 is H or C_{1-3} alkyl;

R^7 is H, C_{1-3} alkyl, or CH_2-T, wherein T is phenyl which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halo, -C_{1-3} alkyl, -O-C_{1-3} alkyl, -C_{1-3} fluoroalkyl, -SO_2-C_{1-3} alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C_{1-3} alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C_{1-3} alkyl)$_2$, or HetC;

R^8 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
(3) $N(R^a)R^b$,
(4) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-O-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(5) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(6) HetF, or
(7) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

R^9 is H, C_{1-3} alkyl, or CH_2-U, wherein U is phenyl which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halo, -C_{1-3} alkyl, -O-C_{1-3} alkyl, -C_{1-3} fluoroalkyl, -SO_2-C_{1-3} alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C_{1-3} alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C_{1-3} alkyl)$_2$, or HetC;

each R^a is independently H or C_{1-3} alkyl; and

R^b is H or C_{1-3} alkyl.

5. (original) The compound according to claim 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^1 is:

(1) H,

(2) CH_3,
(3) chloro,
(4) bromo,
(5) CH_2-$NH(CH_3)$,
(6) CH_2-$N(CH_3)_2$,
(7) $CH(CH_3)$-$NH(CH_3)$,
(8) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(CH_3)_2$,
(9) $CH(CH_3)$-$NH(CH(CH_3)_2)$,
(10) CH_2-NH-C(=O)CH_3,
(11) CH_2-$N(CH_3)$-C(=O)CH_3,
(12) $CH(CH_3)$-NH-C(=O)CH_3,
(13) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(CH_3)$-C(=O)CH_3,
(14) CH_2-NH-SO_2CH_3,
(15) CH_2-$N(CH_3)$-SO_2CH_3,
(16) $CH(CH_3)$-NH-SO_2CH_3,
(17) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(CH_3)$-SO_2CH_3,
(18) CH_2-NH-$(CH_2)_2$-OCH_3,
(19) CH_2-$N(CH_3)$-$(CH_2)_2$-OCH_3,
(20) $CH(CH_3)$-NH-$(CH_2)_2$-OCH_3,
(21) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(CH_3)$-$(CH_2)_2$-OCH_3,
(22) CH_2-NH-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(CH_3)_2$,
(23) CH_2-$N(CH_3)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(CH_3)_2$,
(24) $CH(CH_3)$-NH-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(CH_3)_2$,
(25) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(CH_3)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(CH_3)_2$,
(26) CH_2OH,
(27) $CH(CH_3)OH$,
(28) CH_2-HetD,
(29) $CH(CH_3)$-HetD,
(30) CH_2-NH-CH_2-HetA,
(31) CH_2-$N(CH_3)$-CH_2-HetA,
(32) $CH(CH_3)$-NH-CH_2-HetA,
(33) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(CH_3)$-CH_2-HetA,
(34) HetA, or
(35) C(=O)-CH_3;

R^2 is H or CH_3;

R^3 is:

(1) H,
(2) CH_3,
(3) $C(=O)-CH_3$,
(4) CO_2H,
(5) $C(=O)-O-CH_3$,
(6) $C(=O)N(H)CH_3$, or
(7) $C(=O)N(CH_3)_2$;

R^4 is:

(1) H,
(2) CH_3,
(3) $CH_2-NH(CH_3)$,
(4) $CH(CH_3)-NH(CH_3)$,
(5) $CH_2-N(CH_3)_2$,
(6) $CH(CH_3)-N(CH_3)_2$,
(7) $CH_2-N(CH_3)-C(=O)-CH_3$,
(8) $CH(CH_3)-N(CH_3)-C(=O)-CH_3$, or
(9) CH_2-HetD;

R^5 is:

(1) H,
(2) CH_3,
(3) CH_2CO_2H,
(4) $CH_2CO_2CH_3$,
(5) $CH_2CO_2CH_2CH_3$,
(6) $(CH_2)_{1-2}N(H)CH_3$,
(7) $(CH_2)_{1-2}N(CH_3)_2$,
(8) $CH_2C(=O)N(H)CH_3$,
(9) $CH_2C(=O)N(CH_3)_2$, or
(10) $(CH_2)_{1-2}$-HetF;

or alternatively R^4 and R^5 together with the carbon atoms to which each is attached and the fused ring N atom therebetween form a ring such that the compound of Formula I is a compound of Formula Ia1 or Ib1

R^6 is H or CH_3;

R^7 is CH_2-T, wherein T is phenyl which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently chloro, bromo, fluoro, CH_3, OCH_3, CF_3, SO_2CH_3, C(=O)NH(CH_3, C(=O)N(CH_3)$_2$, or oxadiazolyl;

R^8 is:

(1) H,
(2) CH_3,
(3) N(H)CH_3,
(4) N(CH_3)$_2$,
(5) N(CH_3)-C(=O)-O-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(6) N(CH_3)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(H)CH_3,
(7) N(CH_3)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(CH_3)$_2$,
(8) HetF, or
(9) N(CH_3)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

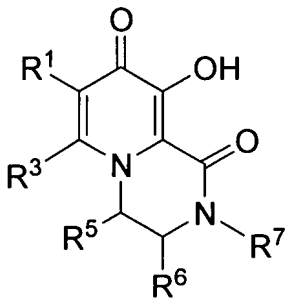
R^9 is H, CH_3, or CH_2-U, wherein U is phenyl which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently chloro, bromo, fluoro, CH_3, OCH_3, CF_3, SO_2CH_3, C(=O)NH(CH_3, C(=O)N(CH_3)$_2$, or oxadiazolyl;

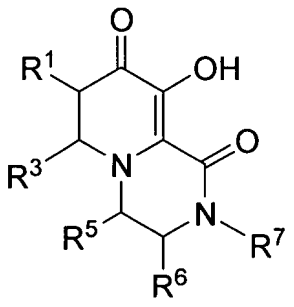
HetA is a heteroaromatic ring selected from the group consisting of oxadiazolyl, thiophenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, and pyridoimidazolyl; wherein the heteroaromatic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom in the ring, and wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with methyl or phenyl;

HetD is a heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, 4-methylpiperazinyl, and piperidinyl fused with a benzene ring; wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring; and

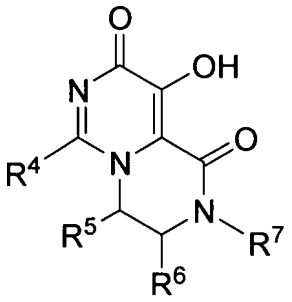
HetF is a heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, and 4-methylpiperazinyl, wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring.

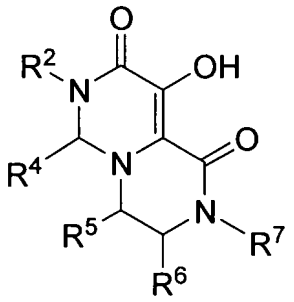
6. (original) The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is a compound of Formula IIa or IIb:


(IIa)


(IIb).

7. (original) The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is a compound of Formula IIIa or IIIb:


(IIIa)


(IIIb).

8. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is a compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

6-acetyl-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-pyridin-3-yl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

7-acetyl-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-(1-hydroxyethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-(1-morpholin-4-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

N-{1-[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazin-7-yl]ethyl}-N-methylacetamide;

N-{1-[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazin-7-yl]ethyl}-N-methylmethanesulfonamide;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-(1-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

N-{1-[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazin-7-yl]ethyl}-N,N',N'-trimethylethanediamide;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-[1-(methylamino)ethyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

7-bromo-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

7-[1-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-{1-[(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)amino]ethyl}-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-{1-[(2-methoxyethyl)amino]ethyl}-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-[1-(isopropylamino)ethyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-{1-[(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)amino]ethyl}-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-[(methylamino)methyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

6-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-methyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-methyl-7-(1-morpholin-4-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-methyl-7-(1-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-[1-(methylamino)ethyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;
6-[1-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione; and

N-{[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidin-6-yl]methyl}-N-methylacetamide.

9. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is a compound selected from the group consisting of:

cis tert-butyl [7-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-4,6-dioxo-2,4,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylen-2-yl]methylcarbamate;

trans tert-butyl [7-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-4,6-dioxo-2,4,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylen-2-yl]methylcarbamate;

2,7-bis(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-2-(methylamino)-8,8a-dihydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylene-4,6(2*H*,7*H*)-dione;

cis 2-(dimethylamino)-7-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-8,8a-dihydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylene-4,6(2*H*,7*H*)-dione;

cis N-[7-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-4,6-dioxo-2,4,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylen-2-yl]-*N,N',N'*-trimethylethanediamide;

trans N-[7-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-4,6-dioxo-2,4,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylen-2-yl]-*N,N',N'*-trimethylethanediamide;

N-[7-(3-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-4,6-dioxo-2,4,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylen-2-yl]-*N,N',N'*-trimethylethanediamide;

[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazin-4-yl]acetic acid;

ethyl [2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazin-4-yl]acetate;

2-[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazin-4-yl]-*N*-methylacetamide;

2-[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazin-4-yl]-*N,N*-dimethylacetamide;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-4-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-4-(2-morpholin-4-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

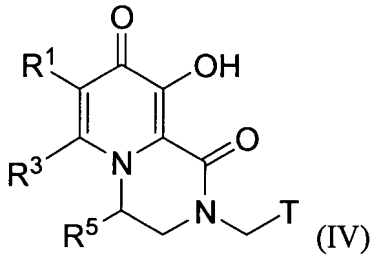
2-(3-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluoro-3-methylbenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(3-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-*N,N*-dimethyl-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-6-carboxamide; and

2-(3-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-6-carboxylic acid.

10. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound is a compound of Formula IV:



(IV)

wherein R^1 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
(3) chloro,
(4) bromo,
(5) CH_2-N(R^a)R^b,
(6) CH(CH_3)-N(R^a)R^b,
(7) CH_2-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
(8) CH(CH_3)-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
(9) CH_2-N(R^a)-SO_2R^b,
(10) CH(CH_3)-N(R^a)-SO_2R^b,
(11) CH_2-N(R^a)-C_{2-3} alkylene-O-C_{1-3} alkyl,
(12) CH(CH_3)-N(R^a)-C_{2-3} alkylene-O-C_{1-3} alkyl,
(13) CH_2-N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
(14) CH(CH_3)-N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
(15) CH_2-OH,
(16) CH(CH_3)-OH,
(17) CH_2-HetD,
(18) CH(CH_3)-HetD,
(19) CH_2-N(R^a)-CH_2-HetA,
(20) CH(CH_3)-N(R^a)-CH_2-HetA,
(21) HetA, or
(22) C(=O)-R^a; and

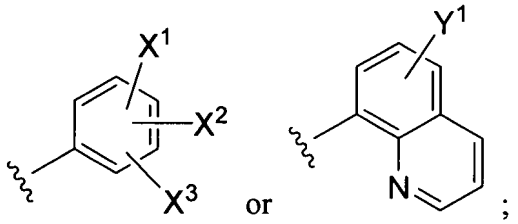
R^3 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
(3) C(=O)-C_{1-3} alkyl,
(4) CO_2H,
(5) C(=O)-O-C_{1-3} alkyl, or
(6) $C(=O)N(R^a)R^b$;

R^5 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
(3) CH_2CO_2H,
(4) $CH_2C(=O)$-O-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(5) $(CH_2)_{1-2}N(R^a)R^b$,
(6) $CH_2C(=O)N(R^a)R^b$,
(7) $(CH_2)_{1-2}N(R^a)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(8) $(CH_2)_{1-2}$-HetF,
(9) $CH_2C(=O)$-HetF, or
(10) $(CH_2)_{1-2}N(R^a)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

T is



;

wherein X^1, X^2 and X^3 are each independently selected from the group consisting of -H, halo, -C_{1-4} alkyl, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C_{1-4} fluoroalkyl, -SO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C_{1-4} alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$, and HetC;

Y^1 is -H, halo, -C_{1-4} alkyl, or -C_{1-4} fluoroalkyl;

HetA is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from zero to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom; wherein the heteroaromatic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom in the ring, and

wherein the heteroaromatic ring is (i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-3} alkyl and (ii) optionally substituted with phenyl or -CH_2-phenyl;

each HetC is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-3} alkyl;

HetD is a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO_2, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with -C_{1-3} alkyl;

HetF is a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 or 2 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO_2, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-4} alkyl;

each R^a is independently H or C_{1-3} alkyl; and

each R^b is independently H or C_{1-3} alkyl.

11. (original) A compound according to claim 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^1 is:

(1) H,
(2) CH_3,
(3) bromo,
(4) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(5) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-C(=O)-R^b,
(6) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-SO_2R^b,
(7) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-C_{1-3} alkylene-O-C_{1-3} alkyl,
(8) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(9) $CH(CH_3)$-OH,
(10) $CH(CH_3)$-HetD,
(11) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-CH_2-HetA,

(12) HetA, or
(13) $C(=O)CH_3$; and

R^3 is:

(1) H,
(2) CH_3,
(3) $C(=O)$-CH_3,
(4) CO_2H, or
(5) $C(=O)N(CH_3)_2$;

R^5 is:

(1) H,
(2) CH_3,
(3) CH_2CO_2H,
(4) $CH_2CO_2CH_3$,
(5) $CH_2CO_2CH_2CH_3$,
(6) $(CH_2)_{1-2}N(H)CH_3$,
(7) $(CH_2)_{1-2}N(CH_3)_2$,
(8) $CH_2C(=O)N(H)CH_3$,
(9) $CH_2C(=O)N(CH_3)_2$, or
(10) $(CH_2)_{1-2}$-HetF;

with the proviso that at least one of R^3 and R^5 is H;

T is 4-fluorophenyl, 4-fluoro-3-methylphenyl, or 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl;

HetA is pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, or pyrazinyl;

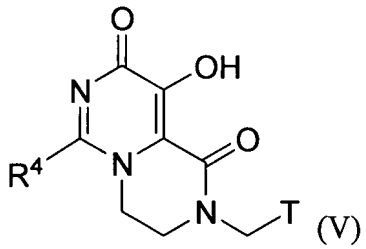
HetD is , , or ;

HetF is , , or ;

R^a is H or CH_3; and

R^b is CH_3 or $CH(CH_3)_2$.

12. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound is a compound of Formula V:



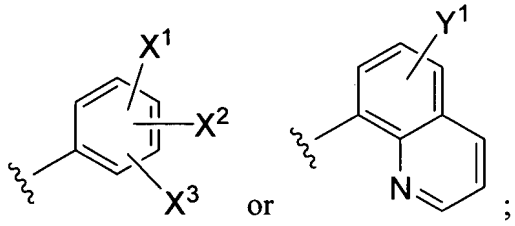
(V)

wherein:

R^4 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
(3) CH_2-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(4) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(5) CH_2-$N(R^a)$-C(=O)-R^b,
(6) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-C(=O)-R^b,
(7) CH_2-HetD, or
(8) $CH(CH_3)$-HetD;

T is



;

wherein X^1, X^2 and X^3 are each independently selected from the group consisting of -H, halo, -C_{1-4} alkyl, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C_{1-4} fluoroalkyl, -SO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C_{1-4} alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$, and HetC;

Y^1 is -H, halo, -C_{1-4} alkyl, or -C_{1-4} fluoroalkyl;

each HetC is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-3} alkyl;

HetD is a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO_2, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with -C_{1-3} alkyl;

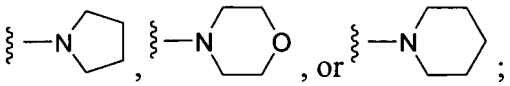
R^a is H or C_{1-3} alkyl; and

R^b is H or C_{1-3} alkyl.

13. (original) A compound according to claim 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^4 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
(3) CH_2-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(4) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(5) CH_2-$N(R^a)$-C(=O)-R^b,
(6) $CH(CH_3)$-$N(R^a)$-C(=O)-R^b,
(7) CH_2-HetD, or
(8) $CH(CH_3)$-HetD;

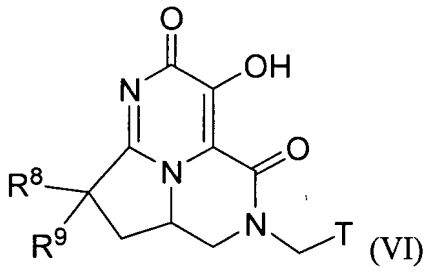
T is 4-fluorophenyl, 4-fluoro-3-methylphenyl, or 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl;

HetD is  ;

R^a is H or CH_3; and

R^b is CH_3.

14. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound is a compound of Formula VI:



(VI)

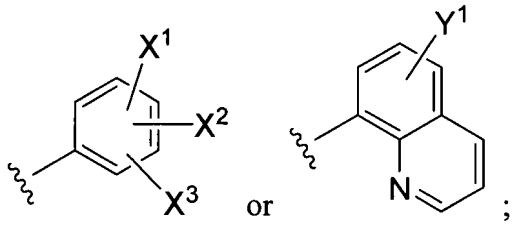
wherein

R^8 is:

(1) H,
(2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
(3) $N(R^a)R^b$,
(4) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-O-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(5) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(R^a)R^b$,
(6) HetF, or
(7) $N(R^a)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

R^9 is H or CH_2-T;

T is



;

wherein X^1, X^2 and X^3 are each independently selected from the group consisting of -H, halo, -C_{1-4} alkyl, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C_{1-4} fluoroalkyl, -SO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C_{1-4} alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$, and HetC;

Y^1 is -H, halo, -C_{1-4} alkyl, or -C_{1-4} fluoroalkyl;

each HetC is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-3} alkyl;

HetF is a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 or 2 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO_2, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^a is H or C_{1-3} alkyl; and

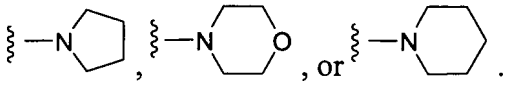
R^b is H or C_{1-3} alkyl.

15. (original) A compound according to claim 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^8 is:

(1) $N(H)CH_3$,
(2) $N(CH_3)_2$,
(3) $N(CH_3)$-C(=O)-O-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(4) $N(CH_3)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(H)CH_3$, or
(5) $N(CH_3)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-$N(CH_3)_2$,
(6) HetF, or
(7) $N(CH_3)$-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

R^9 is H or CH_2-T;

T is 4-fluorophenyl, 4-fluoro-3-methylphenyl, or 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl; and

HetF is  .

16. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for ~~preventing or~~ treating infection by HIV or for ~~preventing,~~ treating or delaying the onset of AIDS in a subject in need thereof which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ combination which is (i) a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and (ii) an HIV infection/AIDS antiviral agent selected from the group consisting of HIV protease inhibitors, non-nucleoside HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors and nucleoside HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors; wherein the compound of (i) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt and the HIV infection/AIDS antiviral agent of (ii) are each employed in an amount that renders the combination effective ~~for inhibiting HIV integrase,~~ for treating ~~or preventing~~ infection by HIV, or for ~~preventing,~~ treating or delaying the onset of AIDS.